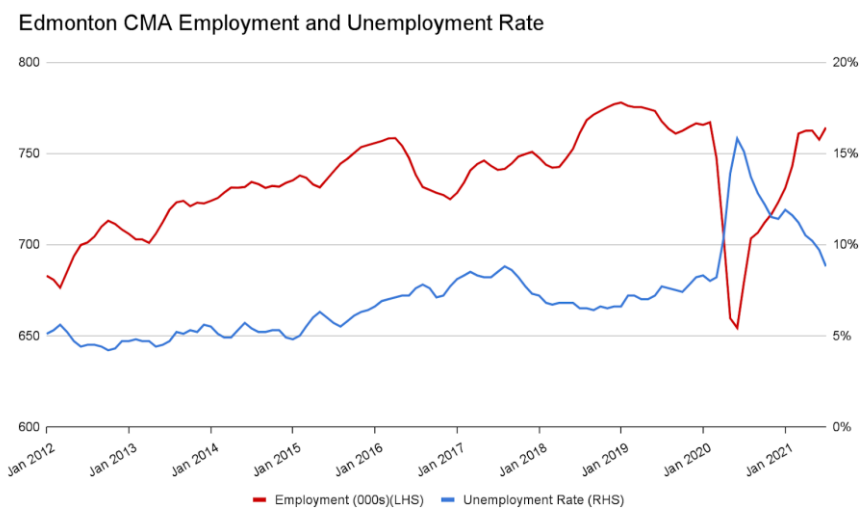


# Economic Indicators

## Employment expands in July

August 6, 2021

Seasonally adjusted employment in the Edmonton census metropolitan area (CMA) expanded by 6,600 individuals in July 2021 from June. The region's labour force contracted for the third consecutive month in July, though by a lesser extent compared to month-over-month reductions in May and June. The unemployment rate moved lower in July to 8.8 per cent from 9.7 per cent in June, bringing it within one percentage point of the region's pre-pandemic benchmark (eight per cent in February 2020).



Source: Statistics Canada, seasonally adjusted data series ending July 2021

Notes: Employment data are charted on the left vertical axis (LHS), whereas unemployment rates are charted on the right vertical axis (RHS). Historical data were revised by [Statistics Canada](#) due to the rebasing of populations to reflect counts from the 2016 Census. Revised data are available going back to 2006 for the Edmonton CMA.

Unadjusted employment estimates in July indicate higher employment in part-time work both year-over-year and compared to July 2019. Full-time employment has been improving, though it is still significantly below July 2019 levels by almost 22,000 individuals.

## Significance

July's Labour Force Survey release is the first release on labour market conditions in the Edmonton CMA after the province moved into stage 3 of its Open for Summer plans<sup>1</sup>. Part-time employment appears to be recovering at a faster pace than full-time employment, which is reflective of the impact restrictions have had on many services-producing industries that tend to hire more part-time workers. It is worth noting that employment in the services-producing sector as of July's estimates is now above July 2019 levels. A notable contributor to this was hiring in the accommodation and food services sector, even though employment remained below its corresponding monthly level in 2019. Across the remaining sectors, employment levels in July for most were still below July 2019 levels with few exceptions.

### Key Labour Force Survey Results—Edmonton CMA Three-month moving average—seasonally adjusted

	July 2020	June 2021	July 2021	Month -over- month	Year- over- year	Month -over- month	Year- over- year
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	%	%
Labour force	799.9	839.1	<b>837.9</b>	-1.2	38.0	-0.1	4.8
Employment	679.2	757.5	<b>764.1</b>	6.6	84.9	0.9	12.5
Unemployment	120.7	81.7	<b>73.8</b>	-7.9	-46.9	-9.7	-38.9
Unemployment rate (%)	15.1	9.7	<b>8.8</b>	-0.9	-6.3	...	...
Participation rate (%)	67.6	70.0	<b>69.8</b>	-0.2	2.2	...	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0380-01

## Limitations

Employment trends tend to lag developments in overall economic activity. Because of this, they are a better indicator of past, rather than current, conditions in the economy. However, employment trends are still useful predictors of future changes in incomes and consumer spending. Statistics Canada publishes a three-month moving average of all labour force estimates for the Edmonton region, which sometimes results in the number of reported jobs lagging behind developments in the Edmonton region's economy

## Contact

Felicia Mutheardy  
Chief Economist (acting), Financial and Corporate Services  
780-496-6144  
felicia.mutheardy@edmonton.ca

## Contact for media inquiries

Matt Pretty  
Communications Advisor  
780-442-0970  
matt.pretty@edmonton.ca

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<sup>1</sup> On July 1, Alberta moved to Stage 3 of its Open for Summer Plan which effectively lifted restrictions on: social gathering; recreation, performance entertainment activities; business closures and capacity restrictions; and large events.